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FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS TURNS TO SCIENTIFIC PANEL FOR ASSISTANCE ON THE FUTURE OF POINT LOMA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

EXPERT PANEL WILL ADVISE CITY ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Faced with a December filing deadline, Mayor Jerry Sanders has engaged a distinguished panel of scientists from UC San Diego, including Scripps Institution of Oceanography, to help him determine whether or not ratepayers and the environment are better served by working cooperatively with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to maintain current treatment protocols or by changing wastewater treatment protocols at the Pt. Loma plant. The Scientific Technical Review Committee will be composed of the region's leading ocean and environmental scientists. Their work product will figure heavily in the Mayor's decision on whether or not the City should pursue a waiver.

The Pt. Loma plant, the region's largest wastewater facility, currently operates at an Advanced Primary treatment level as allowed by the EPA. By December of this year, the City must decide whether to pursue a continuation of its agreement with the EPA or forgo that legally permissible opportunity and instead voluntarily begin moving the Point Loma plant to a Secondary Treatment level. This change would be very expensive for San Diego city ratepayers. It is estimated that the implementation of Secondary Treatment would cost \$1.5 billion or the equivalent of a 75% increase in ratepayers' monthly bills.

A change to Secondary Treatment may also bring no positive environmental benefits. The City discharges its treated wastewater through a four and one half mile long ocean outfall. Extensive ocean monitoring efforts have historically shown that the discharge poses no significant risk to plants and animals surrounding the outfall. This data has been sufficient to allow the City to operate since 1995 with a waiver from the federal regulations governing wastewater discharges to rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

MEMBERS OF NEW REVIEW COMMITTEE ARE LEADERS IN OCEAN SCIENCE

The new Scientific Technical Advisory Committee for the Point Loma plant will be lead by Dr. Paul Linden, the Blasker Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego and Director of UCSD's campus-wide Environment and Sustainability Initiative (ESI). Dr. Linden currently serves on the County of San Diego's Science Advisory Panel and will provide a system wide overview of the outfall and its impacts, and act as an in-house peer reviewer of the panel's work. Coordinating the Review Committee's agenda and analysis work will be Dr. Lisa Shaffer. Dr. Shaffer is Assistant Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Executive Director of ESI.

The panel will also include:

- Dr. Paul Dayton, a specialist in kelp ecology and benthic ecology at SIO,
- Dr. Douglas Bartlett, a specialist in microbiology at SIO,
- Dr. Ed Parnell, a specialist in general oceanography at SIO,
- Dr. Linda Rasmussen, a specialist in Physical Oceanography at SIO, and
- Dr. Richard Gersberg, a professor of Public Health and Microbiology and head of the Occupational and Environmental Health Division for San Diego State University's (SDSU) School of Public Health. Dr. Gersberg also serves as the Director of SDSU's Coastal and Marine Institute.

MAYOR'S TIMELINE LEADING TO DECISION REGARDING POINT LOMA TREATMENT PLANT

July 2, 2007	Scientific Technical Review Committee (STRC) begins its work.
October 2007	STRC issues reports and recommendations for future of Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.
October	Mayor presents his recommendation to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee of the City Council
November	Mayor's recommendation presented to full City Council
December 17	Deadline for submission of waiver application (Should Mayor Recommend and Council Adopt this option)
May 17, 2008	Tentative decision expected by EPA regarding waiver application (if submitted in December)
June 17, 2008	Estimated date of Joint hearing by EPA and Regional Water Quality Control Board to set final decision regarding City's waiver application (if submitted)